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**APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES
LETTERS PATENT**

BRAKING DEVICE FOR A BICYCLE

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to the attachment of a braking device, in particular a drum brake, to a frame part of a bicycle.

2. Description of the Related Art

The attachment of a prior art drum brake to the frame part of a bicycle is usually performed after the drum brake has been assembled with a hub of a bicycle wheel via an axle of the hub connected on the frame part of the bicycle. An extension arm connected to the brake for dissipating brake reaction forces is likewise fastened on the frame part after the extension arm has been brought into the correct position in relation to the frame part. One example of a prior art drum brake with an extension arm is described in German patent application DE 195 36 157.1 A1. In this reference, the extension arm has a support which is fastened on the frame part of the bicycle by a bolted joint or has a bracket or the like, which can be joined to the frame part. It is always the aim of such a construction to create an extension arm which is suitable for attachment to all different types of frame parts (i.e., universal attachment) and, moreover, can as far as possible also be attached to both running wheels of the bicycle.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The subject matter of the present invention relates to a specific attachment of a braking device on a bicycle frame part which is specifically designed for a disk type of braking device. That is, the present invention concerns the segment of bicycles where a disk brake is mounted on both running wheels, or at least on the front wheel. In contrast, the prior art focusses on the design of a universal attachment for the extension arm of braking devices.

Equipping this type of bicycle with drum brakes as it is initially fitted out, or at least by retrofitting, is the object of the present invention. The present invention dispenses with the technically demanding mounting step of positioning the extension arm with respect to the frame part before the axle of the hub is fastened in the drop-out ends of the bicycle.

In general, the manufacturers of bicycles with disk brakes now use a configuration for dissipating the reaction force produced during braking to a fastening element which is arranged on the frame part in the vicinity of one of the drop-out ends of the bicycle frame. The fastening element is a metal plate with two bores, at which there can be fastened a caliper which has brake blocks which are pressed against a brake disk bolted to the running wheel. During the braking of the brake disk and consequently of the running wheel, the brake reaction force is transmitted from the brake blocks via the caliper to the fastening element and consequently to the frame part.

According to the invention, to retrofit a drum brake on a bicycle designed for disk brakes, an adaptor is attached at one of the bores of the fastening element. The adaptor is

preferably a simple-to-produce rotationally symmetrical part and has a groove in which a recess of an extension arm on the drum brake can engage.

According to the present invention, a braking device which comprises a brake carrier with brake shoes and an extension arm is brought together with a hub to form a structural unit. The hub has an axle and the structural unit allows itself to be fastened on the fastening part of the bicycle both by the axle being pushed into drop-out ends on the frame part of the bicycle and by the extension arm simultaneously being pushed into the adaptor. The mounting and removal of the running wheel are consequently reduced to the pushing-in described above and, in addition, tightening of axle nuts on the axle. No additional fastening operations at the joint connecting the extension arm to the adaptor are required. The recess on the extension arm is preferably designed such that it tapers in a funnel-shaped manner to make the joint between the extension arm and the adaptor virtually free from play. Needless to say that, as on all brakes, a remote control for actuating the braking device must be fitted here.

Other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that the drawings are designed solely for purposes of illustration and not as a definition of the limits of the invention, for which reference should be made to the appended claims. It should be further understood that the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale and that, unless otherwise indicated, they are merely intended to conceptually illustrate the structures and procedures described herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a brake carrier plate for a drum brake with an extension arm in a mounting position in front of a frame part having a fastening element and an adaptor according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the brake carrier plate and frame part of Fig. 1 in the final mounted position; and

Fig. 3 shows the joining position of the extension arm with the adaptor on the fastening element in a perspective representation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A braking device according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a brake carrier plate 1 and an extension arm 4 attached thereto. The extension arm 4 may be connected as an integral part of the brake carrier plate 1 or may be a separate part that is connected to the brake carrier plate 1 by any suitable connection such as bolts, screws, rivets, or welding. For the dissipation of brake reaction forces to a frame part 2, the extension arm 4 includes a recess 9 which engages an adaptor 6 arranged on a fastening element 5 mounted on the frame part 2. The recess 9 of the extension arm 4 is joined to the fastening element 5 via the adaptor 6. The adaptor 6 includes a guide 7 in which the recess 9 fits. The adaptor 6 may comprise a rotationally symmetrical part, which simplifies the arrangement of the guide 7 to the extent that it may comprise a simple groove which can be made by either a cutting or a non-cutting machining operation.

Fig. 1 depicts the position of the brake carrier plate 1 in connection with a hub 10 (shown schematically) in relation to the frame part 2 before final mounting. Fig. 2 shows the brake carrier plate 1, and consequently the braking device, in the final mounted position. An axle (not shown in these figures) of the hub protrudes through a central bore of the brake carrier plate 1 and can be pushed into drop-out ends 3 of the frame part 2 (Fig. 2 shows the positions of the brake carrier plate 1 and the drop-out ends 3 in which the hub axle may be inserted). While the brake carrier plate 1 is moved into the position shown in Fig. 2, the recess 9 is simultaneously inserted into the groove 7 of the adaptor 6.

The fastening element 5 comprises a sheet-metal part welded to the frame part 2 and has two bores 8. The fastening element 5 may be a part of the bicycle frame part 2 that is specifically designed for the fastening of a caliper for disk brakes. Accordingly, the present invention specifically includes a brake assembly that is to be retrofitted on a bicycle frame designed for receiving a caliper of a disk brake.

Fig. 3 clearly shows how the adaptor 6 is bolted at one of the two bores 8 and how the recess 9 has been pushed into the guide 7 which is designed as a groove. The brake reaction torque during braking is be transmitted to the frame part 2, provided that the hub with the braking device has been bolted as a structural unit by axle nuts to the frame part 2 at the drop-out ends 3 of the frame part 2.

In a preferred embodiment, the brake carrier plate 1 is a brake carrier plate for a drum brake and carries brake shoes (not shown). Furthermore, the frame part 2 is preferably a front fork of a bicycle. However, the frame part 2 may also comprise any other frame part of any other type of vehicle having drop-out ends 3 for receiving the hub axles.

The advantage of the invention lies in the exchangability of running wheels with brake disks for disk brakes and those with drum brakes; furthermore, the advantage lies in the simplified mounting of the running wheels with a drum brake, which closely resembles that of running wheels with brake disks without an extension arm. The braking device and the adaptor may be sold as a kit for retrofitting the braking device on a bicycle designed for disk brakes.

Thus, while there have shown and described and pointed out fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the devices illustrated, and in their operation, may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, it is expressly intended that all combinations of those elements which perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve the same results are within the scope of the invention. Moreover, it should be recognized that structures and/or elements shown and/or described in connection with any disclosed form or embodiment of the invention may be incorporated in any other disclosed or described or suggested form or embodiment as a general matter of design choice. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the claims appended hereto.